DCCUMENT RESUME

ED 034 C54 08 VT 009 689

AUTHOR	Eberle, Fred W.; Smith, Rex M.
TITLE	West Virginia Research Cocrdinating Unit fcr Vocational Education. Final Report.
INSTITUTION	West Virginia Research Coordinating Unit fcr Vocational Education, Huntington,
Spons Agency	Office cf Educaticn (DHEW), Washington, D.C. Bureau cf Research.
Bureau Nc	ER-6-2722
Pub Date	Sep 69
Grant	OEG-2-6-C62722-2077
Note	24p.
EDRS Price	EDRS Price MF-$0.25 HC-$1.30
Descriptors	Adult Educaticn, Community Surveys, Health Cccupaticns Education, Informaticn Disseminaticn, Inservice Prcgrams, Interagency Cooperation, *Research Cccrdinating Units, Research Prcjects, Teacher Education, *Vocaticnal Education
Identifiers	*West Virginia

Abstract

This repcrt ccvers the pericd frcm May 1967 when the Research Cocrdinating Unit was cfficially established, thrcugh August 1969. Consultative activities concerned such matters as surveys to determine educational needs, an interagency adult basic educaticn and skill training prcject, graduate teacher educaticn, and health occupations educaticn. Infcrmation activities included the develcpment and implementaticn of an informaticn retrieval and disseminaticn system and prcvision cf training sessions on the Educaticnal Rescurces Informaticn Center. Seventeen research prcjects initiated during the pericd studied such matters as attitudes toward vccational educaticn, summer extended emplcyment fcr hcme eccncmics teachers, characteristics of undereducated adults, inservice needs cf vccaticnal educatcrs, facilities utilizaticn, criteria for establishing area schools, and curriculum in ccnsumer education. Planning and develcpment activities included a lcng-range follcw-up study of adult basic educaticn students and institutes fcr adult educaticn teachers, schcol administratcrs, and guidance counselors. (JK)

BR 6-2722
PA 08
OE/BR

ED034054

FINAL REPORT
Project No. 6-2722
Grant No. OEG-2-6-062722-2077

WEST VIRGINIA RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Fred W. Eberle
Rex M. Smith
West Virginia State Department
of Education
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

September 1969

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Education
Bureau of Research

VT009689

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

FINAL REPORT
Project No. 6-2722
Grant No. OEG-2-6-062722-2077

WEST VIRGINIA RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Fred W. Eberle
West Virginia State Department
of Education
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

The work presented or reported herein was performed pursuant to a Grant from the U. S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U. S. Office of Education, and no official endorsement by the U. S. Office of Education should be inferred.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Education
Bureau of Research

CONTENTS

SECTION		PAGE
I.	SUMMARY	1
II.	INTRODUCTION	2
III.	METHOD	4
	Organization	4
	Staff	6
	Procedures	8
IV.	RESULTS	9
	Consultative Activities	9
	Information Activities	11
	Research Activities	12
	Planning and Development Activities	14
	Other Activities	14
V.	CONCLUSION	16
	Organizational Structure	16
	Staff	16
	Relationship With Other Vocational Education Research Agencies	17
	Research and Development in Local Educational Agencies	17
	Identification of State Research Needs	17
	Research Coordination and Stimulation	18
	Vocational Education Resource Library	18
	Inter-Agency Cooperation	18
VI.	REFERENCES	20

SUMMARY

The West Virginia Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education was established on May 1, 1967, to function as the research arm of the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education, State Department of Education. The Unit was centered at Marshall University, operating under the co-direction of the Dean of Teachers College, Marshall University, and the Assistant State Superintendent of Schools, Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education.

The Unit is staffed with a Director, Research Associate, Research Specialist, two Graduate Research Assistants, and two Secretaries. Consultants and Student Assistants may be employed as necessary. A Research Council assists in identifying research and training needs and in recommending research projects and priorities.

The Unit was established to assist in the stimulation and development of occupational research activities, coordination of occupational education research activities within the State with those being conducted outside the State, dissemination of information pertaining to the progress and application of occupational education research findings, planning and development of specific research and training programs relating to occupational research and in the development of projects supported by either public or private funds.

In attaining these objectives, the Unit has engaged in providing a multiplicity of research, consultative, informational, planning and development services. Some of the more significant activities were: (1) Employment of staff; (2) Acquisition of adequate office space and equipment; (3) Appointment and utilization of a Research Council; (4) Appointment of graduate research assistants; (5) Development and submission of various proposals relating to educational development and training; (6) Presentations made before various groups relative to research in vocational education and the role of the Unit; (7) Conduct of training sessions in the use of the ERIC system; (8) Acting in a consultative capacity and assisting in the conduct of county vocational needs studies; (9) Establishment of liaison with numerous State agencies, including the Departments of Employment Security, Welfare, Rehabilitation, Commerce, the Office of Economic Opportunity, State Manpower Commission, and others; (10) Publication of newsletters; (11) Serving on various task forces and committees in the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education and State Department of Education; (12) Establishment of a vocational education resource library--both hardcopy and microfiche; (13) Cooperation with agencies outside the State on vocational education research activities of mutual concern; (14) Completion of numerous in-house studies relative to vocational education in West Virginia; and (15) Staff participation in a number of national, regional and state conferences, institutes and seminars relating to vocational education.

During the period of this grant, the Research Coordinating Unit has been in transition as it moved through a developmental into an

operational phase of activity. It has achieved visibility and utility in meeting the vocational education research needs of the State. Continued emphasis will be placed on research, research stimulation, coordination, dissemination and training activities in order to achieve a higher degree of research utilization in vocational education program planning, development, operation and evaluation.

INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education was approved and funded by the Bureau of Research, United States Office of Education in June of 1966 under the research provisions of the Vocational Act of 1963, P.L. 88-210, Section 4 (c).

The initial grant was for a period of thirteen months with provisions for two additional grants of twelve months each or a total of thirty-seven months to allow for completion of the project. Due to inability to staff the Unit, the project was not officially initiated until May, 1967, with an anticipated termination date of July 31, 1969. The project grant was subsequently amended and extended until August 31, 1969, in accordance with DCVR -- Bureau of Research Memorandum No. 15, dated January 17, 1969, which provided for additional time to allow an orderly transition of Research Coordinating Units from U.S.O.E. Grants under Section 4 (c) of P.L. 88-210 to state administration, as provided under Part C of the Vocational Education Act as amended by P.L. 90-576, the 1968 Vocational Act Amendments.

The Research Coordinating Unit was centered in Teachers College, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, by virtue of a joint agreement between Marshall University and the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education, State Department of Education.

Since its inception, the Unit has functioned as the research arm of the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education. It has served to improve the Bureau's research capability and facilitate application of research to vocational education program planning, development, operation and evaluation. In fulfilling these functions, resources of the Unit have been directed toward providing a multiplicity of research, consultative, informational and planning and development services.

The stated purpose of the Unit was to provide the leadership, motivation and coordination needed to structure a statewide program of research and development which would contribute to the planning, promoting, developing and maintaining of quality vocational education programs to serve the total citizenry of the State.

Activities of the Unit were specified in the project proposal with provisions for flexibility to allow the Unit to identify its role and responsibility on a developmental basis. Activities anticipated for the Unit were:

a. The formulation of major objectives which the Unit would attain.

b. The development of a basic philosophy, policies and procedures for identifying and planning a state-wide plan of research in vocational education.

c. Identification of issues and problems related to the nature and place of vocational education in the State's educational system.

d. Development of a structure within which the Unit would function.

e. Identification and recruitment of personnel who would serve as Unit staff and other individuals and groups that would be expected to cooperate.

f. Development, stimulation and encouragement of organized occupational education research activities in the State Department, rural school districts, colleges and universities and non-profit organizations.

g. Stimulation of activities which would result in increased interest and improved competence in research.

h. Coordination of occupational research activities conducted within the State with those being conducted outside the State.

i. Establishment and maintenance of a resource library for personnel engaged in occupational research and development activities.

j. Dissemination of information on the progress and applications of the results of occupational education research.

k. Determination of the major areas of concern in vocational education that need immediate attention and establishment of priorities for dealing with them.

l. Participation in the development of occupational research and development projects supported by public or private funds.

m. Surveying of available data on employment opportunities, emerging occupational trends and job projections for use in planning vocational education programs.

n. Evaluation of personnel capabilities and determination of the need for recruitment, training and placement of vocational educators.

o. Establishment and maintenance of a plan for evaluating programs of vocational education.

p. Planning and development of specific research and training proposals pertaining to the areas of concern where immediate attention is needed.

q. Coordination of federal, state and local financial resources available for research and development in vocational education.

Detailed within this report, covering the period of the project grant (May 1, 1967 -- August 31, 1969) is basic information relative to the Unit, its organization, personnel, activities and a subjective evaluation in terms of objectives with conclusions and rationale relative to past and future roles in promoting, conducting and implementing research as it relates to vocational education in West Virginia.

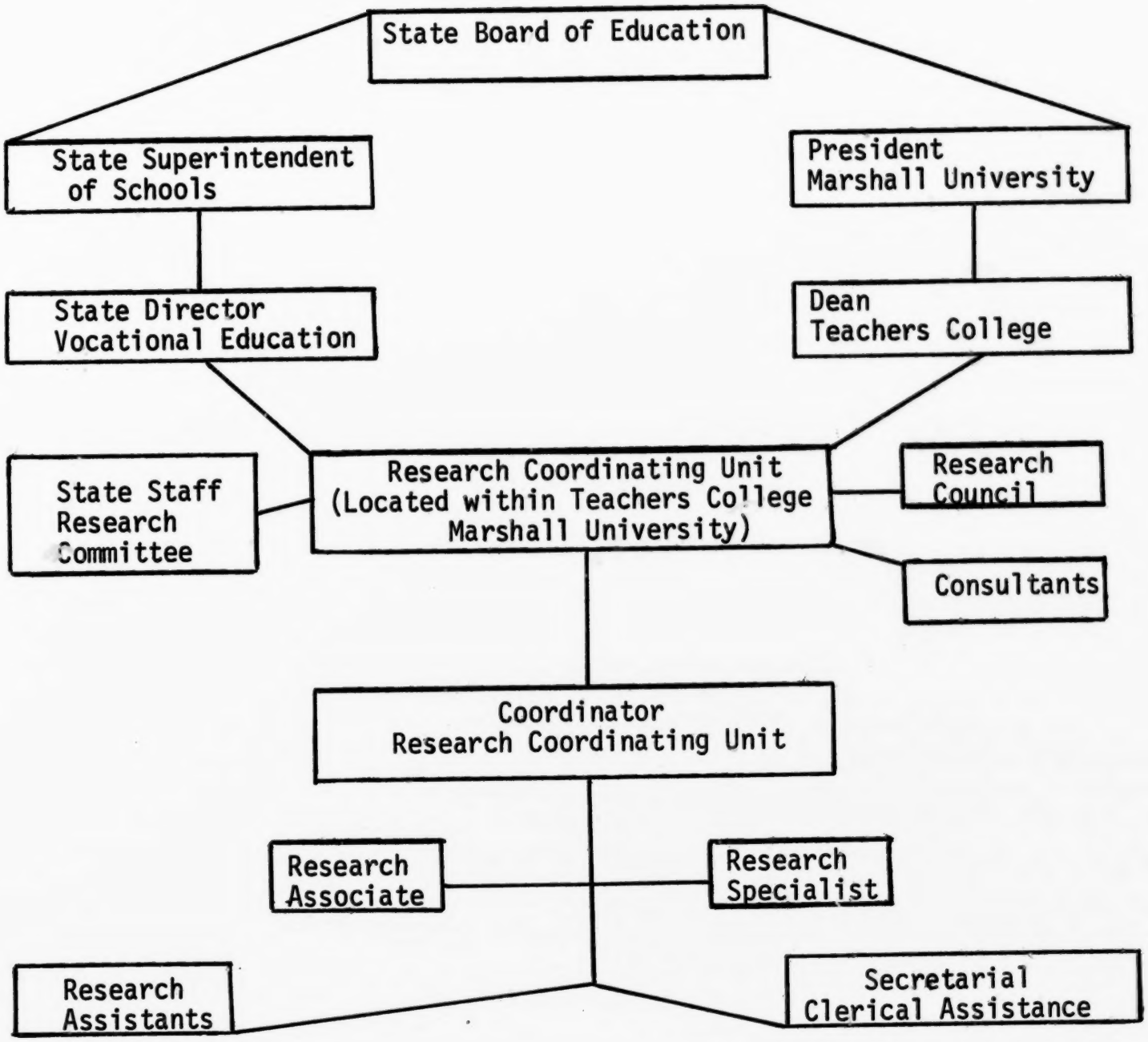
METHOD

Organization

The Research Coordinating Unit was established at Marshall University under provisions of a cooperative agreement between the University and the Bureau of Vocational-Technical and Adult Education, State Department of Education. The organizational structure within which the Unit operates is indicated in figure 1 page 5. The Unit operates under the functional concept of organization, being responsible to the Dean of Teachers College for administrative functions and to the State Director of Vocational Education for operational functions. This mode of operation has proved successful in that activities of the Unit have been easily grouped into administrative and operational functional areas. Lines of communication have been established between all parties concerned, thus allowing the Unit to operate as dictated by each particular activity depending upon its relationship to either program administration or operation.

Additional features of this arrangement which have been contributed to the operational success of the Unit are the personnel and physical resources of the University which have been made available, the opportunities for graduate students to develop research competencies while serving as graduate research assistants with teacher education departments and the Unit, and freedom from the encumberance of a bureaucratic structure thus permitting a high degree of flexibility in dealing with the operational research needs of vocational education in the State.

STRUCTURE WITHIN WHICH THE
STATE RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT
FUNCTIONED



Staff

The Unit was staffed during the initial two month period with a director and a secretary. This staff was then expanded to include a research specialist, an additional secretary, and two graduate research assistants who worked under the direction of the Chairman of the Home Economics Department at Marshall University. At the conclusion of the first fifteen months of operation, the staff was further expanded to include a research associate and the two graduate research assistants were provided office space within the Unit facility.

The responsibility for administering the Unit, subject to policies of the University and the operational research needs of the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education, was assigned to the Unit Director.

Specific duties and responsibilities of the director are:

a. Completion of all technical reports relative to Research Coordinating Unit operations required by the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education and the United States Office of Education.

b. Preparation and submission of the annual budget for Research Coordinating Unit operations.

c. Recommendation of personnel for employment in approved staff positions.

d. Requisitioning all supplies, materials, equipment, employment of consultants and all other expenditures involved in Research Coordinating Unit operations.

e. Assuring that Unit expenditures are in accordance with approved budgets and available funds.

f. Maintaining communications with and rendering progress and status reports on Unit activities to the Dean of Teachers College and the State Director of Vocational Education.

g. Identifying activities in which Unit staff will participate.

h. Scheduling of Unit activities and making assignments to Unit staff on the basis of activity priority.

i. Supervising Unit staff in their conduct of assignments.

j. Serving as a resource person to and consulting with the State Director of Vocational Education relative to various aspects of research in vocational education.

k. Participating in meetings, institutes, seminars, workshops and conferences dealing with vocational education which

contribute to the objectives of the Unit.

l. Continuous evaluation of Unit activities and assigning or reassigning priorities to specific activities.

m. Serving as consultant and making staff consultant services available to all individuals, agencies, institutions and/or organizations who are conducting or plan to conduct vocational education research or research related activities.

n. Being responsible for the overall administration and direction of the Research Coordinating Unit.

A summary of the staffing pattern and staff assignments are as follows:

Position	Name of Person	Per Cent of Time	Dates of Employment
Director	Glenn E. Smith	100%	May 1, 1967 - August 31, 1969
Research Associate	Charles Divita, Jr.	100%	July 1, 1968 - August 31, 1969
Research Specialist	Charles Divita, Jr.	100%	July 1, 1967 - June 30, 1968
	Delvin Anderson	100%	August 1, 1968 - August 31, 1969
Research Assistant	Diane Harris	50%	September 1, 1967 - August 31, 1968
	Roma Gay	50%	September 1, 1967 - July 20, 1968
	Virginia Smith	50%	July 21, 1968 - January 31, 1969
	Nancie Robinson	50%	September 1, 1968 - August 31, 1969
	Linda Kessler	50%	February 1, 1969 - August 31, 1969
Secretaries	Joyce Lucas	100%	May 1, 1967 - June 11, 1968
	Jane Parlier	100%	July 1, 1967 - May 7, 1968

Position	Name of Person	Per Cent of Time	Dates of Employment
Secretaries (cont'd)	Barbara Thacker	100%	May 22, 1968 - May 30, 1969
	Linda Shaw	100%	June 12, 1968 - August 31, 1969
	Judy Fields	100%	July 9, 1969 - August 31, 1969

In addition to the integral staff of the Unit, members of the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education contributed time and effort in the planning, development and conduct of research through being involved in review sessions, meetings devoted to exploring research needs and directions, collection of data, reviewing proposals, development of curriculum, evaluation of and participation in related research activities.

Consultants with experience in a particular field of inquiry relating to activities of the Unit were employed to lend assistance and direction to project development. This procedure worked effectively and was more economical than employing supportive staff on a permanent basis.

A research council was appointed and meetings conducted periodically. Council membership was composed of persons representative of program service areas from institutions of higher education, members of the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education staff serving on the state staff research committee and state supervisors of program service areas, the State Director of Vocational Education, and RCU professional staff members. Meetings were devoted to orientation of the council, identification of research needs of the State, review of the Unit activities, operational research needs, current legislation and numerous related topics.

Procedures

Early in the initial stages in the development of the project, it was determined that the Unit would engage in and provide four basic types of activities and services. These were identified as being consultative, informational, research and planning and development in nature. Consultative services provided were those which served to identify problem areas needing research, advice relative to research design, advice concerning various sources of funding available and referral services to other agencies having research resources. Informational services were provided through such media as brochures, newsletters, Unit publications, bibliographical searches and abstracts of completed studies.

Research services were provided for the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education and to the other users in the form of county surveys to determine program needs, state, regional and area studies relating to the occupational education needs of the State. Planning and development services were provided to assist in the planning and conduct of seminars, institutes and workshops.

Activities in which the Unit participated during the period of the grant can be related to one of the four identified areas of service previously stated. Specific projects undertaken by the Unit were in response to requests from the various school systems in the State, operational needs of the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education and from involvement with other agencies and institutions both within and outside the State. Activities were identified and priorities assigned within the work-load capability of the staff and intensity of need.

This mode of operation resulted in continuous reassignment and realignment of priorities, but resulted in a high degree of flexibility in meeting the vocational education research needs of the State on both state and local levels.

RESULTS

This section of the report outlines Unit activities during the grant period, and establishes the relationship of these activities to a specific type of service provided by the Unit which contributed to the attainment of Unit objectives.

Consultative Activities

Unit staff provided a variety of consultative services and established and maintained liaison with a number of agencies, institutions and organizations during the grant period. A summation of consultative and liaison activities provided during the grant period is as follows:

a. Provided consultative services and maintained liaison with school officials in Pocahontas, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Calhoun, Mingo, Nicholas, Pendleton, Preston and Ohio counties. Studies designed to determine county vocational education needs were conducted through identification of student and parent interests, local business and industry job opportunities and various other economic data necessary in local planning. The results of six studies were published while the remaining counties utilized data collected in vocational education program planning. Preliminary data has been

gathered in one county, and a study of this data is in progress at the present time.

b. Conducted briefings of State Department of Education staff members relative to the Unit and its role in meeting the vocational education research needs of the State.

c. Conducted briefings of State Department of Education staff members relative to the Unit and the results of the "Legislative Study of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education in West Virginia."

d. Cooperated with the West Virginia University-Parkersburg Center, State Department of Employment Security and the Center for Appalachian Studies and Development West Virginia University, in conducting a survey of the State to determine manpower needs in the electrical, electronic and instrumentation fields. The study was designed to identify the need for trained manpower in these areas, to ascertain how present employees in these positions were trained, and the feasibility of offering course work on an extension basis to assist in upgrading present employees in these skill areas. Survey data has been tabulated and analyzed, and the first draft of the study is currently being prepared for review.

e. Consulted with Adult Basic Education staff of the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education, West Virginia Department of Welfare, Appalachian Adult Basic Education Center at Morehead State University and Cabell County school officials in regard to the establishment of a pilot "accelerated" Adult Basic Education Program in Cabell County. This project was designed to incorporate basic education and job skill training into a full-time program for unemployed welfare recipients.

f. Cooperated with officials at Marshall University and the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education in regard to the establishment of a Department of Vocational-Technical Education to provide comprehensive graduate teacher education and meet the vocational-technical education leadership development needs of the State. This Department was established effective July 1, 1969.

g. Consulted with personnel from the State staff Adult Basic Education and representatives from Teachers College, Marshall University relative to conducting a statewide evaluation of Adult Basic Education programs.

h. Consulted with officials and assisted in the development of a proposal submitted by Marshall University to the U. S. Office of Education for an institute to provide in-service training to Adult Basic Education teachers.

i. Consulted and established liaison with the West Virginia Manpower Commission, West Virginia Department of Employment Security and personnel representing the Parkersburg Branch of West Virginia University regarding the need for and feasibility of a statewide comprehensive manpower survey of West Virginia.

j. Consulted with the Title III ESEA PACE Center in Huntington regarding equipment and material needs in establishing a library of ERIC microfiche materials.

k. Communicated with the Director of Research, State Department of Education, regarding a statewide educational information system in West Virginia.

l. Consulted with officials of the Wyoming County school system in regard to preliminary planning for possible vocational education program expansion.

m. Provided consultative services to the West Virginia University-Parkersburg Branch, relative to the development of proposals for a tutorial program for licensed practical nurses, who desire to enter the Associate Degree nursing program and the development of a core approach for health occupations training in the allied health fields.

Information Activities

Unit staff participated in a number of activities, which were related either directly or indirectly to providing informational services to actual or potential users in the field.

The scope of these activities ranged from participation in regional and national meetings, concerning information dissemination and informational services, to orientation and training sessions in group meetings. A listing of specific activities follows:

a. During the grant period, there have been numerous acquisitions of books, pamphlets, studies and bibliographies dealing with vocational education. In addition to these hardcopy resource materials, the Unit began a policy of selective purchasing of microfiche. Due to increased cost of microfiche,

it was soon determined that a standing order placed with ERIC Document Reproduction Service would insure a complete library at little additional cost. Steps were then initiated to procure basic ERIC collections and to subscribe for materials available through ERIC on a monthly basis. The ERIC collection of the Appalachia Educational Laboratory was utilized to supplement the partial collection of microfiche available in the Unit. Subscriptions to Research in Education, Abstracts of Instructional Materials, Abstracts of Research Materials, and Current Index to Journals in Education are maintained and made available in the Unit library. An information retrieval system has been developed and adopted which will provide for easy access to all hardcopy presently on file.

b. Orientation and training sessions on ERIC have been conducted for classes of graduate students at Marshall University and West Virginia University. Unit staff appeared on the program at an annual conference of home economics teachers and presented an orientation relative to the role, services and informational resources available through the Unit.

c. Three newsletters were published and distributed throughout the State. Copies of technical progress reports were forwarded to State Department of Education officials and to Research Coordinating Unit directors in other states. Unit publications of broad general interest were distributed to the various states and ERIC Clearinghouses. Information searches were conducted for the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education and in response to numerous requests received from various agencies, institutions and individuals both within and outside the State.

Research Activities

The Unit staff participated in a number of research activities during the period of the grant. Early in the grant period, a survey of agencies, institutions and organizations within the State was conducted in order to identify the type, extent and location of vocational education research resources. Results of the survey indicated a dearth of resources with a capability for conducting program oriented research. In light of this information, it became evident that Unit staff become involved in conducting research in relation to State program operational needs and in gathering data basic to long-range planning for vocational education in West Virginia. The following studies have been initiated during the grant period. Many appear as Unit publications while others were utilized on an in-house basis and not made available for general distribution.

a. Research Capability for Vocational Education in West Virginia.

b. Attitudes of School Administrators and Boards of Education Members Toward Vocational Education in the Secondary Schools of West Virginia.

c. Summer Extended Employment for Vocational Home Economics Teachers.

d. Vocational Education Needs in Pocahontas County Schools.

e. Prospectus for Vocational Education in Fayette County Public Schools.

f. The Identification of Vocational Education Needs in Calhoun County Schools.

g. Gilmer County Vocational Education Needs Survey.

h. Pendleton County Vocational Education Needs Survey.

i. Adult Basic Education: A Study of the Backgrounds, Characteristics, Aspirations, and Attitudes of Undereducated Adults in West Virginia.

j. A Survey of Vocational Educators to Determine In-Service Educational Needs.

k. A Pre-Test for a Clothing Course in Vocational Home Economics.

l. Vocational Education Facilities Utilization Study.

m. Criteria for Establishing Area Vocational Schools in West Virginia.

n. Guidelines for Establishing Special Needs Programs.

o. Development of a Curriculum Guide for Consumer Education in Vocational Home Economics Classes.

p. Attitudes of Business, Industry and Labor Toward Vocational Education in the Secondary Schools of West Virginia.

q. Guidelines for Developing Vocational Education Needs Through County Analysis.

Planning and Development Activities

Unit staff assisted in planning and development activities by initiating and assisting in the preparation of proposals submitted to the U. S. Office of Education. Proposals developed and submitted were:

a. A Pilot Project for Educational Development and Training in Vocational-Technical Education.

b. A Long-Range Follow-Up Study of Adult Basic Education Students.

c. Institute to Improve the Effectiveness of Adult Basic Education Teachers in Appalachia.

d. Institute for School Administrators to Develop Competencies Related to the Administration of Vocational Education Programs.

e. Institute for Guidance Counselors to Develop Competencies Related to the Vocational Aspects of Guidance.

In addition to the development and submission of proposals, Unit staff participated in a number of planning and development activities on assignment by the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education and the State Department of Education. Examples of such activities were:

a. Served on task force for the development of programs for persons with special needs.

b. Served on various committees concerned with revision of the Comprehensive Education Program for West Virginia.

c. Served on committees concerned with developing the State Plan for Vocational Education in West Virginia.

d. Participated in Research Coordinating Unit, Research Council Meetings.

Other Activities

Unit staff was involved in a number of activities in addition to those previously described. These activities which were general in nature and consisted primarily of participation in state and national institutes, conferences, workshops and seminars resulted in staff becoming knowledgeable concerning the wide scope of vocational education programs as they relate to specific problems in education, manpower development and research.

Activities so identified were:

a. State Department of Education Staff Meetings.

b. Division of Vocational Education and Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education Staff Meetings.

c. State Home Economics Teacher Conferences.

d. State Agriculture Teachers Conferences.

e. West Virginia Vocational Association Meetings.

f. National Conference on Education and Training in Correctional Institutions.

g. Institute on Manpower Information for Vocational-Technical Education.

h. Institute on the Operation of Educational Information Service Centers.

i. National Convention of the American Society for Information Service.

j. National Seminars on Vocational-Technical Teacher Education.

k. Meetings of the Southwide Research Council.

l. American Vocational Association National Meetings.

m. Regional Workshop on ERIC.

n. National Conference on Evaluation of Vocational-Technical Education.

o. National Conference on Research in Vocational-Technical Education.

p. State Vocational Guidance Workshops.

q. State Youth Awareness Conference.

r. Annual Membership Meeting of the Appalachia Educational Laboratory.

s. National Research Coordinating Unit Director Conferences.

CONCLUSIONS

The establishment and operation of Research Coordinating Units, through the cooperative efforts of the Bureau of Research, U. S. Office of Education and the respective State Divisions of Vocational Education, has resulted in diverse patterns of Unit organization, functions and activities. These differences are understandable in that every state has certain unique needs in the area of vocational education research. Even though there are differences, many activities are commonly shared by Units in the various states.

The West Virginia Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education, since its inception, has functioned as an ancillary service to vocational education in the State. The following observations are made concerning various aspects of Unit operation during the grant period.

Organizational Structure

The organizational structure within which the Unit functioned during the grant period proved extremely effective. This high degree of effectiveness is attributed to the level of support by administrative leadership both at the University and within the State Department of Education.

Marshall University provided necessary facilities and supportive services which added significantly to the operational effort of the Unit. The support provided by the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education staff and the State Director of Vocational Education allowed the Unit to become involved in operational research and development activities at the State level. Continued administrative support and involvement is deemed essential to future efficient Unit operation in relation to established purposes and objectives and in providing for continued research capability, particularly as it relates to program operation needs at the State level.

Staff

A lack of personnel, specifically trained in research, resulted in the identification and recruitment of staff who had potential in the area of research and the subsequent development of research competencies by these personnel through specific duty assignments and involvement in selected activities.

One of the early efforts in the developmental phase of activity was directed toward the identification of research resource capabilities for vocational education in the State. The absence of extensive research capability as revealed by this study, particularly in the area

of program oriented research, resulted in a decision to adopt this function as a Unit activity area.

It is anticipated the Unit will improve the dissemination effort by expanding staff to include an information specialist who would function in the area of information dissemination on a full-time basis. The assignment of an information specialist is critical to meeting the information dissemination needs of the State, particularly in selective dissemination of information and providing user services both at State and local levels.

Relationship With Other Vocational Education Research Agencies

Effective linkage has been established with the ERIC Clearinghouse for Vocational-Technical Education, located at the Ohio State University and the Center for Occupational Education at North Carolina State University at Raleigh. The relationship enjoyed with these agencies is particularly valuable in terms of coordination of research on a national and regional basis.

Communication with other Research Coordinating Units has been established through exchange of quarterly technical reports, newsletters and completed studies. Coordination of research activities within the State with that outside the State is maintained through above media and individual contacts regarding specific activities of mutual concern.

Research and Development in Local Educational Agencies

A factor limiting research and development at the local level through experimental, pilot and developmental programs has been the lack of financial resources to support research and related activities. While allocation of funds under the Vocational Act of 1963, P.L. 88-210, provided for the establishment of state Research Coordinating Units, additional provisions under Part C of the 1968 Vocational Act Amendments, P.L. 90-576, should prove effective in at least partially meeting research needs at the local level. Present plans are for the Unit to be involved in research and exemplary program provisions of the recent legislation. This involvement implies the need for further efforts in working with local personnel in providing opportunities for training in the planning and development of research and exemplary projects.

Identification of State Research Needs

Unit staff has worked closely with staff of the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education and the Research Council in the identification of annual and long-range priorities for research and exemplary program activities. Although formation of a Research

Council has been effective in bringing together personnel in higher education and State Department levels, it is felt that the Council base should be expanded to include representatives of industry, business, labor, local administrators and vocational teachers in the State. This is felt to be particularly essential in that State research priorities must be identified on an annual and long-range basis.

Research Coordination and Stimulation

An increase in funds available for local research efforts will result in increased effort by the Unit relative to improving research stimulation and coordination. Whereas, research stimulation has not been an area of particular emphasis in the past (due to a lack of financial resources) and research coordination has not been a problem (due to the absence of extensive research being conducted), these areas will become of more importance as additional research funds become available.

Vocational Education Resource Library

An extensive resource library has been established incorporating material both on microfiche and hardcopy. A policy of selective purchasing of microfiche was followed initially, but reconsideration in terms of overall costs and utility of this practice resulted in a decision to stock the entire microfiche collection and to receive further inputs into the collection by procuring ERIC microfiche on a subscription basis. The resources of the Unit library are made available to University faculty, staff and students as well as to other users throughout the State upon request.

Inter-agency Cooperation

Liaison has been established with a number of agencies throughout the State concerning data relative to meeting research and planning needs for vocational education.

Continued emphasis will be placed on inter-agency cooperation for planning purposes. A vast amount of data is available from various agencies in the State which relate to planning needs in vocational education; however, the consistency of much available data for planning purposes requires a significant amount of analysis and interpretation.

A concern for research, as an input into the program planning, development, operation and evaluation phases of vocational education in West Virginia, has been recognized for some time by the vocational

education leadership in the State. There will be a continuing review of Unit activities to assure their relevance and effectiveness as related to the objectives of vocational education. Changes will need to be made in response to the research and development needs of vocational education programs, services and activities.

REFERENCES

Brochures

1. _____. West Virginia Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education, December, 1967.

2. _____. Guidelines for Developing Vocational Education Needs Through County Analysis, January, 1969.

Final Reports

3. Divita, Charles, Jr. "Attitudes of School Administrators and Boards of Education Members Toward Vocational Education in the Secondary Schools of West Virginia." July, 1968.

4. Divita, Charles, Jr. "Adult Basic Education: A Study of the Backgrounds, Characteristics, Aspirations, and Attitudes of Undereducated Adults in West Virginia." February, 1969.

5. Gay, Roma. "A Pre-Test for a Clothing Course in Vocational Home Economics." August, 1968. (Unpublished Masters Thesis)

6. Robinson, Nancie S. "Research Capability for Vocational Education in West Virginia." August, 1969.

7. Smith, Glenn E. "Procedural Guide for the Writing of Proposals." February, 1968.

8. _____. "Vocational Education Needs in Pocahontas County Schools." September, 1968.

9. _____. "Prospectus for Vocational Education in Fayette County Public Schools." October, 1968.

10. _____. "The Identification of Vocational Education Needs in Calhoun County Schools." November, 1968.

11. _____. "Gilmer County Vocational Education Survey." December, 1968.

12. _____. "Pendleton County Vocational Education Needs Survey." January, 1969.

Completed Studies Awaiting Publication

13. Divita, Charles, Jr. "Attitudes of Business, Industry and Labor Leaders Toward Vocational Education in the Secondary Schools of West Virginia." September, 1969.

14. Harris, Dianne. "Summer Extended Employment Program for Vocational Home Economics Teachers." August, 1968.

15. Smith, Virginia and Kesler, Linda. "A Survey of Vocational Educators to Determine In-Service Educational Needs." August, 1969.

Newsletters

16. West Virginia Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education. RCU Newsletter. (Three Quarterly Issues)

Proposals

17. _____. "A Pilot Project for Educational Development and Training in Vocational-Technical Education." May, 1968. (Not Funded)

18. _____. "A Long-Range Follow-Up Study of Adult Basic Education Students." June, 1968. (Funded)

19. _____. "Institute to Improve the Effectiveness of In-Service Adult Basic Education Teachers in Appalachia." May, 1969. (Not Funded)

20. _____. "Institute for Guidance Counselors on the Vocational Aspects of Guidance." February, 1968. (Not Funded)

21. _____. "Institute for School Administrators on the Administration of Vocational Education." February, 1968. (Not Funded)